

broad, evenly broadening backwards, and then abruptly truncated, not narrowing to a median point posteriorly, their hinder margin convex backwards; premaxillary processes very narrow and slender. Zygomata strongly and evenly bowed outwards, the outlines of the two, continued across the muzzle, forming together three-fourths of a circle. Palatine foramina long, as in *C. australis*, but markedly narrower. Posterior palatal margin rounded, not angular, level with the hinder lamina of *m.*³.

Incisors slender, narrow, the upper ones more thrown forwards than in other species, their front surface white. Posterior talon of *m.*³ much less developed than in *C. australis*.

Dimensions of the type (an adult female):—

Head and body (*vide* Garlepp) 190 millim.; hind foot (wet) 34; ear (wet) 13.

Skull: basal length 36·6; basilar length from henselion 33·5; greatest breadth 29·5; nasals 15 × 9·1; interorbital breadth 11; palate length from henselion 18·5; diastema 9·3; palatal foramina 5·5 × 2·1; length of upper molar series (crowns) 10·2.

Type B.M. no. 98. 3. 16. 20; original number 1716. Killed May 8, 1897.

The only known species to which this curious little Cavy is even distantly allied is *C. australis*, but that differs markedly from it both in cranial and external characters. *C. mœnus*, described in the following paper, is, on the other hand, closely allied to *C. australis* and equally distant from *C. niata*.

XLVI.—*Descriptions of Two new Argentine Rodents.*

By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

(I.)

THE British Museum owes to the kindness of Dr. F. P. Moreno, of the La Plata Museum, the skin of a Cavy from Rioja, obtained by him during the same expedition on which he discovered the *Eligmodontia Moreni* described by me in 1896*. In working out the Cavies collected by Mr. Garlepp and referred to in the preceding paper the Rioja one also proves to be new, and may be described as follows:—

* Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. (6) xviii. p. 307 (1896).

Cavia mænas, sp. n.

Nearly allied to *C. australis*, but larger. General colour dull buffy fawn, the hairs pale slaty basally, with subterminal buffy bands and black tips. Eyes with well-marked whitish rings. Hairs on inner side of ear and on the patch behind its posterior base whitish. Under surface buffy white, not sharply defined, the hairs slaty grey basally. Uppersides of hands and feet dull whitish, tending towards fawn mesially.

Skull with a much longer and more parallel-sided muzzle than *C. australis*, the nasals practically as broad in front as behind; interorbital region flat, little ridged, its edges more nearly parallel than in *C. australis*. Lacrymals as in that species. Palatal foramina very long, uniting with the incisive fissures, not of the characteristic triangular shape of those of *C. australis*.

Upper incisors vertical, not thrown forward; white in front. Talon of *m*.³ long, about equal in extent to the second lamina of that tooth.

Dimensions of the type, in skin:—

Head and body (evidently stretched) 265 millim.; hind foot, without claws 41, with claws 45.

Skull: tip of nasals to bregma 35·5; greatest breadth 30; nasals 18·7 × 6·5; interorbital breadth 11·1; palate length from henselion 22·6; diastema 12·5; palatal foramina 10 × 3; length of upper molar series 12·2; lower jaw, back of condyle to incisor-tip 37.

Hab. Chilecito, Rioja, 1200 metres.

Type B.M. no. 96. 10. 7. 12. Collected and presented by Dr. F. P. Moreno, of the La Plata Museum.

This species is evidently the North-Argentine representative of *C. australis*, to which species alone it is nearly allied and from which it may be distinguished by its more buffy colour, longer nasals, more vertical incisors, and longer palatal foramina. Besides the type, the Museum possesses an example in spirit from Mendoza of what appears (allowing for the cranial variation usual in the group) to be the same form, while a third example—a skin—was said to have come from “Chili”; but it seems probable that this statement is erroneous.

(II.)

When in Argentina in the early part of 1896 I was given by Dr. C. Spegazzini, of the La Plata Institute of Agronomy, four specimens in the flesh of a Tuco-tuco, which he had

obtained at "Las Talas" *, a district along the lower part of the Santiago River, near Ensenada, the port of La Plata. This animal, when describing *Ctenomys Perrensi*, I referred † with some doubt to Dr. Nehring's *Ct. minutus*, originally from Mundo Novo, Rio Grande do Sul. Thanks to the kindness of Dr. Nehring, I now possess a careful drawing of the largest of the three skulls he founded that species upon, and am therefore able to make a comparison between *Ct. minutus* and the La Plata animal. From the drawing it appears to me evident that Dr. Nehring's specimens were immature—so much so, indeed, that I doubt if the full-grown animal is any smaller than the Uruguayan *Ct. torquatus*, Licht. In any case, however, the Ensenada Tuco-tuco, of which an old male barely exceeds in size the immature *Ct. minutus*, besides differing in other characters, must be considered as a distinct species.

Ctenomys talarum, sp. n.

Size very small; form, as judged by skull, more slender than usual. General colour above very dark, the usual buffy or clay-coloured subterminal bands on the hairs being much hidden and obscured by their unusually broad black tipping, the whole of the back being as dark as the very darkest patches on the spine of *Ct. Perrensi*. Centre of face nearly or quite black. Cheeks like back; a small but well-marked whitish patch just at the lower edge of the ear. Under surface pale, almost exactly "cream-buff" of Ridgway, the chest very faintly darker; white axillary and inguinal patches very small. Sparse hairs of hands and feet whitish buff. Tail blackish brown above, pale buffy below.

Skull much lighter and more slender than in any other species known to me. Muzzle narrow, parallel-sided. Nasals broad, rapidly narrowing backward. Interorbital region narrow, the postorbital processes delicate. Brain-case low and flattened. Interparietal small, broader than long. Bullæ narrow.

Incisors less broad than in the allied species, their faces as usual deep orange-yellow above and below.

Dimensions of the type (an adult male), taken by myself in the flesh :—

Head and body 172 millim.; tail 55; hind foot, without claws, 30.

Skull: basal length 40·3; basilar length 38; zygomatic

* So called from the Tala trees (*Celtis tala*) which grow in the locality.

† Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. (6) xviii. p. 312 (1896).

breadth 26·2; nasals $15 \times 7\cdot2$; interorbital breadth 8·5; breadth across postorbital processes 9·5; least breadth across brain-case 16·2; greatest posterior breadth on auditory meatus 24·7; palate length from henselion 20·7; diastema 13; length of upper molar series 8·6; greatest diameter of anterior tooth (*p.*⁴) 3·5.

Hab. "Las Talas," Ensenada, La Plata.

Type collected June 24, 1896. Original number 169.

This little species may be readily distinguished from any hitherto described by its small size, dark coloration, and slender skull.

XLVII.—*On Peripatus novæ-britanniæ, sp. n.*

By ARTHUR WILLEY, D.Sc.

LAST year I obtained thirteen specimens of a species of *Peripatus* in New Britain, of which eleven were females and the remaining two males. The following brief diagnosis will suffice to show that this species constitutes a new (Melanesian) type of *Peripatus*, conforming neither to the type of the Neotropical, nor of the Australasian, nor of the Ethiopian species.

I. *Colour*.—In the living animal the colour consists generally of large and small brownish-yellow spots dotted upon a black background. On the dorsal surface the larger spots are arranged segmentally, one row on each side above the bases of the legs and another row on each side of the median line. On the ventral surface there is a median row of brown spots surrounding the ventral organs. The black ground-colour developed a bluish tinge after preservation in 5-per-cent. formol, and the ventral surface was then seen to be rather less deeply pigmented than the dorsal surface.

II. *Female*.

1. *Length* of largest specimen 54·75 millim., with maximum width of 5 millim.
2. *Twenty-four* pairs of claw-bearing appendages.
- *3. *Legs* provided with three spinous pads; the apertures of the enlarged segmental organs of the fourth and fifth legs placed in the centre of the third or proximal pad; a similarly placed aperture sometimes occurs on the sixth leg.
- *4. *Feet* with a primary papilla on the anterior and

* Nos. 3 to 5 apply to both sexes.